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Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217168

FOR MATLOCK FROM GARRISON

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. WE WERE OF COURSE VERY PLEASED THAT INS ROME FINALLY A-
GREED AUGUSTINA MERKHER IS NOT INELIGIBLE. FOR THE SAKE
OF FUTURE CASES WE ARE ASKING VO TO QUERY INS CO ABOUT THE
COLLECTIVE GUILT DOCTRINE SPELLED OUT IN PARAGRAPH 3 OF
ROME 14189. WHAT IS THE CURRENT STATUS OF KRAPIVENSKAYA?
ALSO, WHERE DOES THE MONYA POPOVITSER CASE STAND? AS FAR
AS WE CAN DETERMINE THE DEPARTMENT STILL OWES YOU A REPLY
TO MOSCOW 11971.

2. WE ARE ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH ON THE RECREATIONAL
PROPERTY. THE ACTION MEMO ON CHANCERIES IS WITH LARRY
AND WE EXPECT A DECISION ON THE CURRENT TUP.

3. YOUR MESSAGE ON THE EXHIBIT BROCHURE PROVIDED THE STRAW
FOR WHICH EVERYONE WAS GRASPING. CONGRATULATIONS FOR
FINDING THE KEY TO AVOIDINGELEVATINGTHE ISSUE TO A MATTER
OF PRINCIPLE. USIA WAS REVIEWING TEXTS, AND MAYBE WE WOULD
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HAVE CHOSEN THIS WAY OUT, BUT NOT WITHOUT YOUR BOLD POSING

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OF THE ISSUE. THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF HAND-WRINGING OVER AI BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT NOONE IS WEDDED TO EITHER THE SOLUTION OF IGNORING THE PROBLEM OR OF IN EFFECT

VOLUNTEERING TO WITHDRAW IT. USIA IS COMBINING SOVIET LIFE AND OTHER MATERIALS FOR SOMETHING TO OBJECT TO, AND IF THEY FIND SOMETHING OUR PREFERRED SOLUTION IS TO COMBINE A COMPLAINT WITH AN ADMISSION OF WHAT'S IN AI. IN ANY EVENT, IGNORE THE INSTRUCTION TO TELL SOYUZPECHAT TO HOLD AI. THIS WAS SENT BEFORE YOUR TELEGRAM.

4. THIS IS TO GIVE YOU ADVANCE WARNING THAT WE HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE WHITE HOUSE TO PREPARE A DEMARCHE FOR PRESENTATION IN MOSCOW ON BEHALF OF A NUMBER OF US FAMILIES WITH RELATIVES TRYING TO LEAVE THE USSR (SOME ARE ALREADY ON REPLIST), OR WITH INTEREST IN SPECIFIC FAMILIES TRYING TO LEAVE FOR ISRAEL. THIS "MINI-REPLIST" ALSO CONTAINS SOME CASES OF POLITICAL AND RELIGIOUS PRISONERS AND IS BASED ON LETTERS RECEIVED BY WHITE HOUSE APPEALING FOR PRESIDENTIAL INTERCESSION WITH SOVIETS FOLLOWING HIS MILWAUKEE MEETING WITH ETHNIC GROUPS. WE ARE LOOKING AT THE CASES AND WOULD EXPECT TO HAVE AN INSTRUCTION OUT TO YOU WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

5. WE THOUGHT MOSCOW 13672 A GOOD EXAMPLE OF HOW TO COMMENT ON AN IMPORTANT PRESS ARTICLE AND AGREED WITH THE ANALYSIS, WHICH TRACKED WITH A BRIEFING MEMO WE DID THAT DAY. AS YOU NO DOUBT ASSUMED, THERE IS SOME EVIDENCE THAT PUSH COULD COME TO SHOVE ON THE BORDER AND THIS IS THE SUBJECT OF SOVIET CONCERN, BUT THERE IS LITTLE WE SEE THAT THEY COULD DO TO HELP THEIR CLIENTS IN THE EVENT.

6. WE AGREE THAT WE SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY TOWARD ESTABLISHING ADVANCE PARTIES AND WILL CABLE YOU TEXT OF NOTE TO SOVS, WITH YOUR SUGGESTIONS ADDED IN, BEFORE WE PRESENT IT HERE.

7. ON TIMING OF KIEV ADVANCE PARTY WE CAN SEE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM IN THAT WE EXPECT SOVIETS TO ARGUE LONG AND HARD ABOUT SIZE LIMITATION ON ADVANCE PARTY. THEY MAY HOLD CONFIDENTIAL

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US UP UNTIL THEY ARE CONVINCED THEY HAVE HEARD THE LAST WORD. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT AS IN CASE OF VOA MONITORING EVERYTHING IS DONE FROM HOTEL ROOM BUT WE ARE CHECKING. AGREE ABOUT AVOIDING INCIDENTS.

8. WE AGREE WITH YOUR POINT ABOUT CONDITIONING THE WASHINGTON READERSHIP TO THE POSSIBILITY OF CHANGE OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS IN THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP. THIS IS

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MUCH ON PEOPLE'S MINDS IN TERMS OF THE PAPERS BEING WRITTEN OR PLANNED FOR WHATEVER TRANSITION WE HAVE HERE.

SO ALL CONCERNED THOUGHT 13742 WAS USEFUL AND ENCOURAGE MORE. ANOTHER POSSIBLE THEORY IS THAT SOMEONE WHO DOES-N'T LIKE VICTOR PLANTED THE STORY ON HIM AND HE REALIZED TOO LATE THAT HE HAD BEEN HAD. AS YOU WILL SEE, WE ARE TRYING TO GET SOME BACKGROUND FROM LONDON.

9. RE EFFORT TO ELICIT BLOOD TEST INFORMATION FROM SOVIETS, DR. POLLACK BELIEVES IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO USE FRAME-WORK OF ONE OF HEALTH AGREEMENT PROJECTS ON INFLUENZA. HE WILL BE EXPLORING THIS NEXT DAY OR TWO AND WE WILL AWAIT HIS RESULTS BEFORE TAKING FURTHER ACTION ON YOUR LETTER AND CABLE. ROBINSON

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